REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-10, 12, and 14-33 are currently pending. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 20 and 26 have been amended to change the term "said" to "the" and more clearly describe the method elements as "steps." Claims 3-4, 11 and 13 are cancelled.

1.   <u>Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103(a)</u>

Claims 1-2, 5-10 and 23-33 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson (US 6,460,031) in view of Korda (US 6,564,210). The Examiner has argued that Wilson discloses a system for generating a query interface to a database. Korda discloses a method for identifying a user's foci of interests and sorting retrived information based upon the user's foci of interest. It would have been obvious to formulate queries and obtain a second menu list of words or phrases based on the user profile information. The Examiner also argued that the motivation to combine the references is to provide relevant results to users based on the user's focus of interest. (Office Action, Page 3.)

The applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of Wilson and Korda. It is the applicant's belief that Wilson discloses a system for using natural language to access and present data stored in a structured database which is not the World Wide Web. The user inputs the desired query based upon a set of parameters from a set of menus. All of the menus are predetermined by the data stored on the hierarchical structured database. "A database contains certain sets of data with certain relationships between these sets. These sets of data are manually mapped to the navigator such that it duplicates the hierarchical structure present in the database." (Wilson, Col. 2, lines 50-54.)

The Wilson system is used to obtain specific information that is stored in a hierarchical structured database. The query interface query system is designed to access all information in the structured datasource. "The structured datasource may be any one of a number of database systems such as Microsoft Access, dbase, Oracle, Sybase, etc. The structured datasource may be a spreadsheet, a relational database, or a multidimensional database." (Wilson, Col. 4, lines 9-19, Col. 5, lines 38-60, Fig. 4.)

The Internet was well known at the time that the Wilson patent was filed and the assignee SAP is a very large software company, yet there is no mention of the Internet or World Wide Web. Thus, there is no suggestion of using the invention with an unstructured data source such as the World Wide Web anywhere within the patent. Because the disclosed system is used with a database of information organized in a hierarchical structure, the data is already sorted. The search will only produce the specific requested information. Because the search produces only the requested information, there is no need to adjust the search results based upon the user's interests.

The search system disclosed in Korda is very different than the search system disclosed by Wilson. In contrast to a search system of a structured datasource, the Korda patent discloses a robot that helps the user acquire and rank information from "distributed databases, i.e. the World Wide Web" based upon the user's interests. The robot determines the user's interests and then finds the most relevant documents based upon a user's "foci of interest." The robot can use the focus of interest as a query for automatic retrieve matching information from the web. The robot can rank the results of a manual search based upon the relevance to the user's focus of interest.

(Korda, abstract, Col. 2, lines 1-31.) There is no discussion in Korda about using the robot with a structured database.

The mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. *In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680, 16 USPQ2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990) The requisite motivating suggestion must be explicit. *Winner International Royalty Corp. v. Wang*, 48 USPQ.2d 1139 (D.C. 1998) ("...there must have been some explicit teaching or suggestion in the art to motivate one of even ordinary skill to combine such elements so as to create the same invention."). The Examiner must identify where the prior art provides a motivating suggestion for the combination. *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ.2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

The applicant respectfully submits that there is no motivation for combining the teachings of Korda and Wilson because the two systems are used for completely different purposes. The Wilson system is designed to allow a user to access a specific piece of known information that exists in a specific location in a structured database. In contrast, the Korda system processes vast amounts of unstructured information on the World Wide Web to produce many documents ranked upon the relevancy to the user's interests.

It would also be unnecessary to apply the ranked relevance based upon the user's focus of interest disclosed by Korda to the menu search method disclosed by Wilson. The Wilson query system is uses menus to access specific information stored in a structured database and the search results only produce the requested information. Because the search only produces requested information, there is no need for ranking the search results based upon the user's

interests. For these reasons, there are no express teachings or suggestions for combining the

Wilson and Korda references.

Claims 12 and 14-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Wilson (US 6,460,031), in view of Korda (US 6,564,210) and further in view of DeLorme (US

5,948,040). It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 12 and 14-22 have been

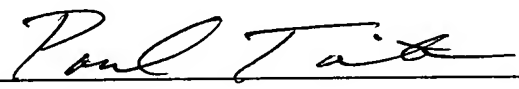overcome for the same reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1-2, 5-10 and 23-33.

Applicant respectfully requests that the above described amendments be made part of the

official record in the present application, and respectfully submit that support for the claim

amendments is present in the specification, claims, and drawings as originally filed, and that no

new matter has been added.

If there are any shortages, the Examiner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account

Number 04-0822.

Respectfully submitted,
DERGOSITS & NOAH LLP

Dated: September 1, 2005   By: _____

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